

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 SSM-03 /086 W

----- 026787

R 051618Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1449

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: CALL ON FRENCH CHARGE IN BEIRUT

1. EMBOFF LANE CALLED ON FRENCH CHARGE DE LATAILLADE AUG. 5. LATAILLADE, WHO HAS BEEN IN LEBANON ABOUT SIX WEEKS, SAID HE WAS "MIDLY OPTIMISTIC" THAT CEASEFIRE WOULD HOLD, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ONLY THE LATEST IN LONG SERIES THAT HAD FAILED. HE SAID HE HAD RECENTLY CALLED ON FRANGIE, AND SARKIS, AND HAD MET WITH GEMAYEL ON TWO OCCASIONS. FRANGIE HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO TRY A CEASEFIRE BUT HAD EXPRESSED GREAT DISTRUST OF PALESTINIANS--THEY HAD BROKEN AGREEMENTS BEFORE, WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS THINK THEY WILL NOT AGAIN? SARKIS HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC BUT FULLY AWARE OF DIFFICULTIES HE WILL FACE WHEN HE ASSUMES OFFICE AS PRESIDENT. GEMAYEL, ACCORDING TO LATAILLADE, THOUGHT HE COULD NEGOTIATE WITH ARAFAT BUT DID NOT TRUST HIS LIEUTENANTS.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF OTHER LEBANESE LEADERS, LATAILLADE DESCRIBED JUNBLATT AS AN "INTERESTING PERSONALITY." WHILE HE IS PRESENTLY THE LEADING FIGURE ON THE LEBANESE LEFT, LATAILLADE DOUBTED THAT JUNBLATT COULD HOLD THIS DISPARATE GROUP TOGETHER OVER THE LONG RUN. LATAILLADE ALSO MENTIONED THAT  
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HE HAD MET PREVIOUS DAY WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF

GOL FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO HAD REFERRED TO RECENT RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT FRANGIE WILL RESIGN PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF HIS TERM ON SEPT. 23 AND ADVISED HIM NOT TO BELIEVE IT. LATAILLADE SAID HE HAD NOT YET CALLED ON ANY ARAB LEAGUE REPS, EITHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, BUT INTENDED TO DO SO SOON.

3. COMMENT. FRENCH EMBASSY IS HEAVILY SAND-BAGGED BUT LATAILLADE SAID HE HAD BEEN MOVING BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT IN RECENT WEEKS WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.  
HUNT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D760303-0245  
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